Rs. 18.00 crore of Central Government share out of Rs. 125.00 crore for VIII Plan, is being released shortly.

(b) and (c) A statement is enclosed.

(d) The selection of beneficiaries is done by the respective State Channelising Agencies through the district administration. The cases relating to any irregularity in beneficiary identification is looked into by the State Channelising Agency. So far no specific information evincing the fact that there has been irregularities on account of procedural inadequacy has been brought to the knowledge of the Government.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

The state-wise details of amount given to States by the Corporation and State-wise details of amount distributed by the Minority Corporation of States/ State Channelising Agencies.

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	Allocation made by National Minorities dev. and Fin. Corpn.	Amount disbursed by State Minority Corpns./ Channelising Agencies
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	151.14	135.15
2.	Assam	75.29	-
3.	Bihar	1017.45	-
4.	Chandigarh	20.40	-
5.	Gujarat	604.40	-
6.	Himachal Pradesh	26.91	-
7.	Haryana	190.08	93.45
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	508.08	112.84
9.	Kerala	962.05	449.69
10.	Karnataka	724.09	277.09
11.	Meghalaya	5.82	-
12.	Maharashtra	950.83	582.95
13.	Manipur	65.04	-
14.	Madhya Pradesh	695.87	136.30
15.	Mizoram	47.00	7.86
16.	Punjab	796.92	313.88
17.	Tamil Nadu	620.75	464.00
18.	Tripura	10.90	2563.43
19.	Uttar Pradesh	5127.62	-
20.	West Bengal	931.77	-
	Total	13532.41	5136.44

[English]

Restrictions on Import of Foodgrains

585. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry had decided to resist any move by the Government to commit the country for removing the quantitative restrictions on the import of foodgrains at World Trade negotiations;

(b) whether being a member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), India is under obligation to convert all quantitative restrictions on imports into tariffs;

(c) if so, the manner in which it is proposed to oppose WTO pressure;

(d) whether the impact of PEPSI experience on agriculture and employment has also been studied; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURNAN MISHRA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) entered into force on a provisional basis in January, 1948 as the only multi-lateral instrument laying down agreed rules for international trade. India was a founding member of the GATT with formal membership dating from 1948. After successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of Multi-lateral Trade Negotiations in December, 1993 the WTO came into being w.e.f. 1st January, 1995 and India is an original member of the WTO.

One of the basic disciplines incorporated in GATT 1947 and carried forward to GATT 1994 pertains to quantitative restrictions (QRs). Article XI of GATT prohibits use of QRs since the basic philosophy of GATT is that import is to be controlled through tariffs only. There are, however, a number of exceptions to the stipulations against

QRs provided for in Article XI. Article XVIII B covers developing countries. Article XVIII B is designed to take into account the interests of members whose economies can only support low standards of living and are in the early stages of development. A member taking recourse to Article XVIII B is required to have periodic consultations with the Committee on BOP Restrictions.

India, in recent years, has had consultations with the Committee on BOP Restrictions in 1994 (siplified consultations) and in 1995 (full consultations). During the 1995 consultations India had been asked to present a firm time-table for the phasing out of restrictions as the general feeling was that due to the improved foreign exchange position, India can no longer take recourse to BOP cover.

India has recently notified all the QRs maintained by it to the WTO Secretariat in fulfilment of its earlier obligations. The lifting of QRs has been cited in the 8th Plan document also and is in consonance with and in keeping with our own objectives of liberalisation keeping the likely impact on the domestic industry as well as on the agriculture sector. The whole issue is under examination.

(c) Since India is maintaining QRs for BOP purposes, the consultations in this regard with WTO are likely to be held shortly.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Question does not arise.

Clearance to Holiday Resort

586. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a Holiday resort is being constructed at Morkal in the Nagarahole National Park in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the clearance has been obtained from the Central Government for its construction;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the action proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (d) No such proposal has been received so far in this Ministry for environment clearance.

Smuggling of Girls to Jedah

587. SHRI JAG MOHAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have seen reports regarding 'sale' of wives, through touts or otherwise, in Murshidabad district for being taken to Jedah;

(b) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(c) if so, the results thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) Facts are being ascertained. The matter has been taken up with the State Government.

[Translation]

Purchase of Sugarcane

588. SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the target set for the purchase of Sugarcane by the Mills in Uttar Pradesh particularly in Jaunpur and Bhadohi districts;

(b) the quantity of cane purchased upto January, 1997 through various purchasing centres as against the targets fixed therefor;

(c) the reasons for low purchasing of cane as compared to the prescribed targets; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to achieve the target prescribed for the purchase of cane and the facilities being provided to the farmers ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

Ban on Use of Pesticides

589. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether banned toxic pesticides like ENDOSULFAN is freely available in India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this pesticide is being marketed in India under as many as 48 brand names;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to ban its use ?